

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 EUR-12 ARA-10 /100 W  
-----092076 050303Z /45  
R 040830Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9059  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 4464

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, SY  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO QUESTION IN C-24

REF: STATE 188247

1. POLOFF MET WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
JAZZAR AND WENT OVER TALKING POINTS CONTAINED IN  
REFTEL. JAZZAR APPEARED IMPRESSED THAT PRESIDENT  
CARTER HAD COMMITTED US IN JULY 25 PROCLAMATION TO RESPECT  
RESULTS OF ANY REFERENDUM HELD IN PUERTO RICO. HE INDICATED  
THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EQUATE  
PUERTO RICO WITH A COLONIAL SITUATION AND PRAISED US STAND.  
HOWEVER, JAZZAR DID NOT AT ANY TIME SPECULATE HOW SYRIA  
WOULD ULTIMATELY VOTE ON THE QUESTION.

2. INEVITABLY, JAZZAR CONTRASTED OUR READINESS TO ABIDE  
BY RESULTS OF REFERENDUM IN PUERTO RICO WITH US POSITION  
TOWARDS PALESTINIANS. HE ASKED HOW IT WAS THAT US WITH SUCH A  
"VITAL INTEREST" IN SEEING PUERTO RICO REMAIN FRIENDLY  
TO US AND NON-COMMUNIST COULD PERMIT IT INDEPENDENCE IF ITS  
PEOPLE SO WISHED WHILE DENYING THE SAME RIGHT TO THE  
PALESTINIANS. POLOFF REMINDED JAZZAR THAT ASWAN FORMULA  
GAVE US SUPPORT TO CONCEPT OF PALESTINIANS PARTICIPATING  
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IN DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE AND COMPARED THIS WITH  
CUBAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ERITREA.

3. JAZZAR ADMITTED THAT SYRIA STILL HAD SERIOUS DIFFERENCES  
WITH CUBA ON THIS QUESTION BUT SAID THAT CUBA WAS NEITHER  
A SUPERPOWER NOR A COUNTRY TO WHICH THE WORLD LOOKED FOR  
MORAL LEADERSHIP. US, ON OTHER HAND, WAS EXPECTED TO BE

CONSISTENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SYRO-CUBAN RELATIONS CONTINUE TO UNDERGO STRAINS AS A RESULT OF DIFFERENCES OVER ERITREAN QUESTION, CUBAN VISITORS HERE HAVE BEEN QUITE FREQUENT OF LATE AND SYRIA CANNOT FORGET PREVIOUS CUBAN SUPPORT. SYRIA LIKES TO CLAIM THAT IT ACTS ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLE BUT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER IT OFTEN FINDS IT EASIER TO GO ALONG WITH HARDLINE GROUPS IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IN RETURN FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. NEVERTHELESS, JAZZAR'S REMARKS WERE ENCOURAGING AND AMBASSADOR SHOEFI BRINGS A NEW MODERATION TO SYRIA'S UN DELEGATION. SYRIAN SUPPORT OR, AT LEAST, ABSTENTION IS WORTH PURSUING ON THIS QUESTION.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DAMASC04464  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780321-0043  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 188247  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1839456  
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**Subject:** SYRIAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO QUESTION IN C-24  
**TAGS:** PORG, SY, CU, UNGA  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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